



DARK NIGHTS

3

DEATH METAL



Capullo
fco
Garrison

AGES 13+

SNYDER + CAPULLO + GLAPION + PLASCENCIA



FANDOME

A GLOBAL EXPERIENCE

08.22.2020

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From the creative duo behind *New York Times* bestseller *TEEN TITANS: RAVEN*

DARE TO FIND YOUR TRUTH!

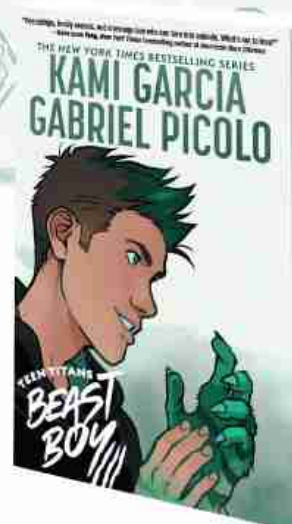
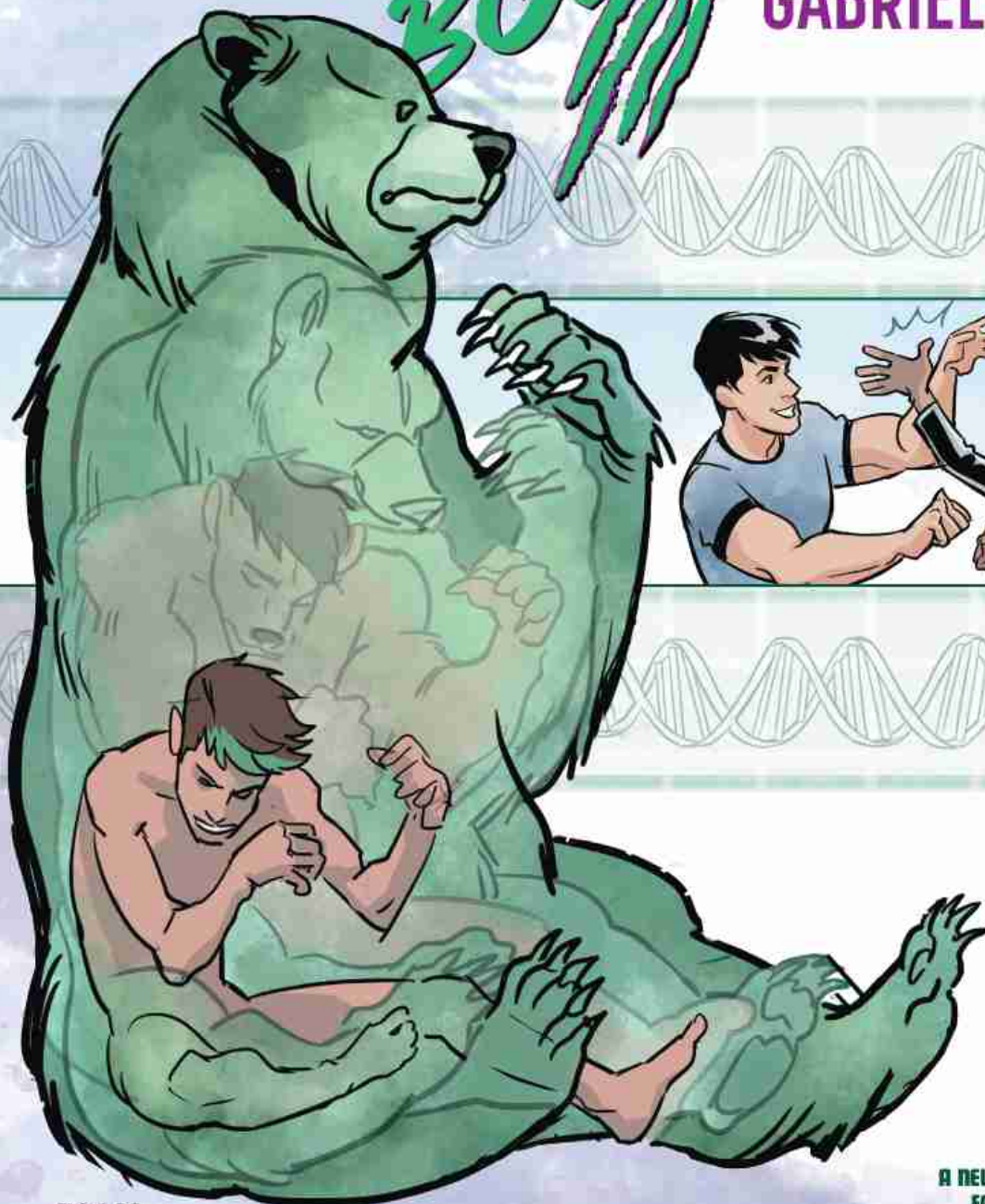
TEEN TITANS BEAST BOY

Written by

KAMI GARCIA

Illustrated by

GABRIEL PICOLO



TM & © DC

A NEW GRAPHIC NOVEL
FOR YOUNG ADULTS
ON SALE NOW!



"HEY, KIDDO. UP AND AT 'EM! JUST A FEW MORE HILLS TO TAKE."

"WHERE WERE WE IN OUR TALE? NEW APOKOLIPS, PRISON OF THE REMAINING HEROES, INSIDE THE HEART OF OUR POOR DYING SUN."

"YESSIR, WAR TAKES YOU TO STRANGE FRONTIERS. PLACES YOU DIDN'T KNOW EXISTED. UNDER YOUR BOOTS, SURE..."

"...BUT ALSO INSIDE YOUR HEAD. HELL, THAT'S WHERE YOU'LL COME ACROSS THE STRANGEST FINDS OF ALL."

ANYTHING, COLLECTOR? BATROCITUS?

I AM A THIRTEENTH-LEVEL INTELLIGENCE, NIGHT GLIDER. IF THERE WERE SURVIVORS, I WOULD SENSE THEM.

THE NERD'S RIGHT. NO SIGNS OF FRIGGIN' LIFE.

UNLESS THAT STINKIN' CORPSE COUNTS, WHICH IT DON'T.

MAN, THAT IS ONE UGLY PILE OF COWBOY.

WHOA WHOA.

UGLY PILE OF OUTLAW, THANK YOU.

AND TO BE FAIR, THE DEAD DO COUNT. HELL, I CAN EVEN DO IT BACKWARDS. WATCH.

THREE, TWO, ONE...

NO! DON'T D--

DEATH METAL

AN ANTI-CRISIS PART III
PICK UP STYX

BY SCOTT "SLAUGHTER" SNYDER & GREG "GORELORD" CAPULLO



WITH

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COLORS - FCO "POSTMORTEM" FLASCENCIA

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SUPERMAN CREATED BY JERRY SIEGEL AND JOE SHUSTER
BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE JERRY SIEGEL FAMILY

**THE GREAT
DEATH DRIVE**





I MEAN IT *COULD* GET TACKY. BATS ON EVERYTHING?

BATS ARE NEVER TACKY.

NICE. YOU SHOULD PRINT THAT ON BUMPER STICKERS.

I DID WHILE YOU WERE TALKING.

NOW FOCUS, HARLEEN.



THE *PRISON* SHOULD BE UP AHEAD.

I STILL DON'T LIKE THIS, DIANA.



IF WE'RE GOING TO WIN, WE *NEED* HIM, BRUCE.

HE'S STILL THE MOST POWERFUL *HERO* ON OUR SIDE. AND--



UHH!

SWAMP THING? WHAT IS IT?



I...SENSE A GREAT *DISTURBANCE* IN THE LIFE FORCE BACK ON EARTH. SOMETHING TERRIBLE JUST *WOKE*.

WHAT KIND OF DISTURBANCE?

IT'S *HIM*.



WHATEVER FORM THE BATMAN WHO LAUGHS HAS TAKEN, IT'S JUST BEEN *BORN*.

WE NEED TO GET WHO WE CAME FOR, *NOW*.



"HAS ANYONE EVER TOLD YOU ABOUT THE GREAT *DEATH DRIVE*?"

VROOM



YOU LISTENING, KAL-EL? LET ME GET YOUR ATTENTION, TURQUOISE, GO.

AAAGH!



IMPRESSIVE, EH? SHADES OF KRYPTONITE YOU NEVER KNEW EXISTED, BROUGHT FROM THE DARK MULTIVERSE, AND INFUSED IN THE GLASS PANELING.

THE BEAMS WILL SOON FINISH KILLING YOUR KRYPTONIAN CELLS. ONCE THAT HAPPENS, ANTI-LIFE WILL CONSUME YOU. YOU CAN CONTINUE TO FIGHT THE PROCESS, OR YOU CAN SURRENDER TO THIS BRILLIANT, INESCAPABLE MACHINE, CARE OF *MISTER MIRACLE* HERE.



HE PROBED MY MIND. I'M SO SORRY, CLARK.

DON'T BE SORRY. YOU'RE HELPING HIM REALIZE HIS DESTINY.

LET ME ASK YOU, KAL. DO YOU EVER WONDER WHY NEARLY ALL DARK MULTIVERSE VERSIONS OF YOU ARE SUPERMEN WHO *RULE* HUMANITY? *TYRANT* SUPERMEN?



THEY'RE MY FEARS COME TO LIFE, MONSTER. NOTHING MORE.

AND YET IN MANY WAYS, AREN'T OUR FEARS MORE *REAL* THAN THE PERSON WE PRESENT? OUR FEARS *ARE* WHO WE ARE, KAL.

WE HUMANS, WE FEAR *DEATH*, WE FEAR OUR OWN INSIGNIFICANCE. IT'S WHY IN THE END, UNATTENDED, WE ARE DESTINED TO DESTROY OURSELVES.

IT'S WHY NEARLY ALL *DARK BATMEN* ARE DESTROYERS.



AT HIS CORE, *BATMAN* FEARS *HUMAN* NATURE.

BUT YOU...FEAR WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF YOU DO NOT *CONTROL* IT.

BECAUSE DEEP DOWN YOU KNOW...

...THE ONLY WAY TO BE HUMANITY'S SAVIOR IS TO RULE US, AND REMOVE OUR FEAR. AND WHAT BETTER WAY THAN WITH THE *ANTI-LIFE* EQUATION.



THIS IS YOUR TRUE DESTINY, KAL-EL. YOUR FATE'S TRAJECTORY... FROM KRYPTON, A PLANET DOOMED BY UNCHECKED FEAR, TO EARTH, A PLANET YOU CAN *STILL* SAVE.

SURRENDER TO IT AND I WILL HAND POWER TO YOU AND RETIRE JUST AS I DID ON MY WORLD.

I'LL GO *UP, UP, AND AWAY* INTO DEEP SPACE AND YOU WILL RULE.

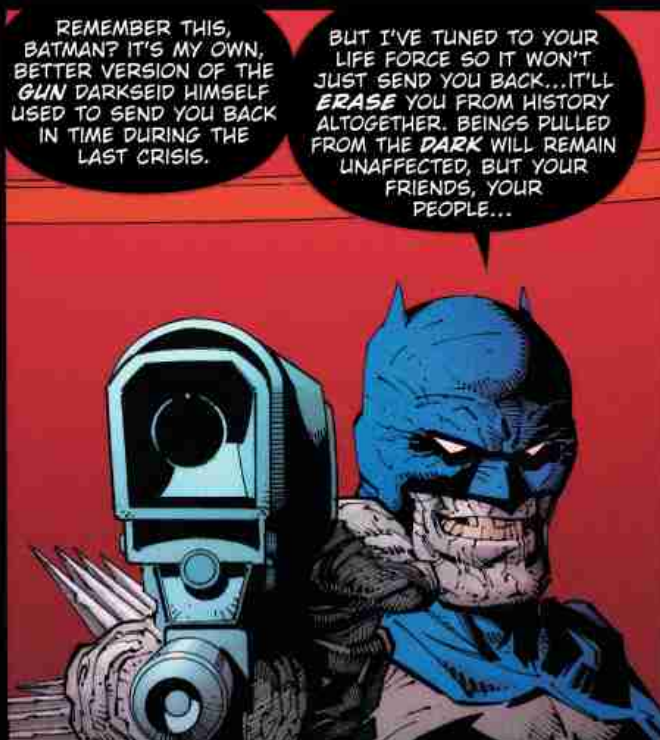


SO DO IT! EMBRACE THE *TRUTH!* AND--

VRPVR









WHAT IN...WHY
ARE YOU STILL
HERE?!

=COUGH
COUGH= TO
WATCH THIS
NEXT PART.

CLARK?

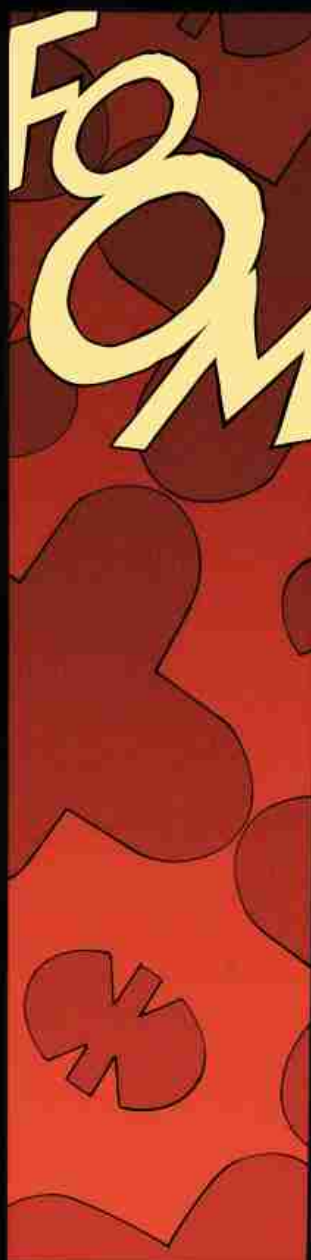


ON IT.

GO AHEAD
THEN, KAL-EL.
ANTI-LIFE!

CONSUME
HIS DEAD
CELLS!

CRACK



WHY...HOW
DID ANTI-LIFE
NOT AFFECT
YOU?!

IT
AFFECTED
ME...









HAPPY PLACE



OH GOD IT HURTSSS!



HOLD THE LINE, IMPS!

THIS IS A REALM OF IMAGINATION!



KILLING HAS NO PLACE HERE!

THE FIFTH DIMENSION.



TSK, TSK. SEE, IN MY EXPERIENCE, COMING UP WITH WAYS OF KILLING IS WHERE FOLKS DO THEIR BEST IMAGINATIVE WORK!



THERE YOU ARE.

ME? BUT... BUT MR. WOBO, I'M JUST A WITTLE TWEE--



--a harmless twee in da--

OH #\$\$*£!



GOTCHA. MEMENTO MORI, BATSICH...

THE CRYPT OF HEROES.

"...NO HIDING FROM
THE MAIN MAN."

FATE,
WHAT IS THAT
NOISE?!

I...I DON'T
UNDERSTAND, THIS
BUNKER SHOULD BE
PROTECTED!

PROTECTED
FROM WHAT?
DOC!

SOMEONE...
SOMEONE IS COMING
THROUGH!

GOOD
MORNING,
ALL!



AND WHO ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO BE, KID?

ME? I'M THE ROBIN KING, JAY! GOOD TO MEET YOU!

NICE GETUP. THE BELT IS A CHOICE.

WHY *THANK* YOU, BARRY! WORKING ON IT IS SORT OF MY *HAPPY PLACE*, YOU KNOW? IT SURE TOOK ME A WHILE TO MAKE, *BELIEVE* YOU ME! SEE, THE COMPARTMENTS?

THEY CONTAIN WAYS OF KILLING *EVERY* SINGLE HERO IN THE WORLD!

NEAT, HUH?

THIS ONE HERE...IT'S FOR *YOU*. SEE, ON MY WORLD, I DUG UP YOUR *DEAD MOM*, COVERED HER REMAINS IN THIS GREAT SPEED FORCE-CANCELING TOXIN THAT LIQUEFIES YOUR MUSCLES. SUPER PAINFUL. SUCH COOL STUFF.

I *STUFFED* HER ROTTING CORPSE INTO A *FLASH RING*.



HER ARMS SORT OF FLING OUT LIKE SHE'S TRYING TO HUG YOU WHEN SHE POPS OUT! WANT TO SEE?



DO...DO NOT LISTEN TO THIS FIEND!

AW, YOU'RE RIGHT, KENT. I'M SORRY. I MEAN I'M NOT HERE TO KILL YOU.

I'M HERE TO WATCH *HIM* DO IT.



HIM WHO? WHAT THE HELL IS THAT LITTLE PUNK TALKING--



IT'S *HIM*.

THE BATMAN WHO LAUGHS? BUT--

WHATEVER HE'S BECOME... HE'S COMING.

LISTEN, IF HE'S HERE, HE'S AFTER **YOUR** POWER, WALLY. WE CAN'T LET HIM GET IT. WHATEVER HE IS, I SENSE HE'S STILL RELATIVELY **WEAK**.

IF HE CATCHES YOU AND ABSORBS WHAT'S LEFT OF THE **ANTI-CRISIS ENERGY** INSIDE YOUR BODY, HE'LL BECOME POWERFUL ENOUGH TO KILL PERPETUA...HE'LL BE UNSTOPPABLE.

WHAT CAN WE DO, THOUGH?

ONLY **ONE** THING.

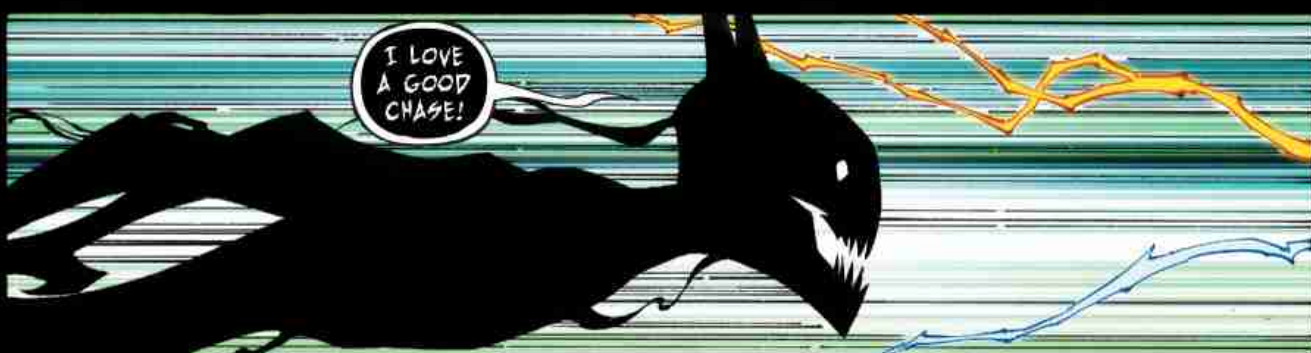


RUN.



GO, MY FRIENDS! NOW! BEFORE HE CAN FOLLOW!







MEMENTO MORI





"RIGHT NOW, **PERPETUA** IS DRAWING HER ENERGY FROM **CRISIS WORLDS** IN THE DARK MULTIVERSE.



"THE ENERGY IS TRANSMITTED UP FROM THE DARK AND OUT TO HUMAN ANTENNAS AROUND THE MULTIVERSE, WHERE IT IS AMPLIFIED AND SENT TO **PERPETUA** HERSELF.

"WHAT WE NEED TO DO IS **REDIRECT** THAT ENERGY TO ONE OF OUR OWN.



"SOMEONE WHO HAS THE POWER TO KILL **PERPETUA** AND THEN HELP US RE-CREATE THE MULTIVERSE AS IT **SHOULD** BE.

"THAT SOMEONE IS **WALLY WEST**.

"**JOHN STEWART**, YOU LEAD THE LANTERNS, TAKE DOWN HER **ANTENNAS** ON THE REMAINING EARTHS. **MARTIAN MANHUNTER**, YOU AND YOUR TEAM GO AFTER HER **THRONE**. THE **FLASHES** WILL KEEP **WALLY** SAFE.

"MEANWHILE, MY TEAM AND I WILL SNEAK INTO THE **DARK MULTIVERSE** THROUGH THE **PORTAL** BENEATH **CASTLE BAT** AND REDIRECT THE **CRISIS** ENERGY TO **WALLY**."

"SNEAK INTO **CASTLE BAT**? HOW DO YOU PLAN ON DOING THAT?"



THAT'S WHY WE CAME UP HERE. TO ENLIST THE HELP OF THE **MOST POWERFUL** HERO AMONG US.

WAIT...YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT **SUPERMAN**. RIGHT?

NO. I'M TALKING ABOUT...



"...SOMEONE ELSE."

BREAKING IT UP HERE, BOSS!

"BREAK IT UP FASTER, STARFISH, OR SPEND A NIGHT IN THE BOX."

YESSIR, BOSS, SIR!

JARRO.

BECAUSE LITTLE DO YOU KNOW THAT BEHIND MY POSTER OF STARFIRE I'VE BEEN USING MY KNOWLEDGE OF APOKOLIPTIAN ROCK SCIENCE AND MY REVERSIBLE STOMACH TO TUNNEL OUT OF THIS HELLH--

JARRO.



HEY, KID.



...DAD?



ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT. NOT IN FRONT OF CLARK.



-HUFF HUFF- WAIT, WHAT'D I MISS? WHY'S BATS HUGGING A STARFISH?*

*SEE JUSTICE LEAGUE FOR WHY BATMAN IS HUGGING A STARFISH. OR, BETTER YET, JUST MAKE UP YOUR OWN REASON. --MARIE



JARRO IS THE MOST POWERFUL **PSYCHIC** BEING IN THE UNIVERSE.

HE WILL BE ABLE TO **PSYCHICALLY BLOCK** THE DARK KNIGHTS AND THE BATMAN WHO LAUGHS HIMSELF FROM DETECTING WHAT ME AND MY TEAM ARE DOING.

HERE, THERE'S SOMETHING ON YOUR FACE.

THAT'S MY FACE.

WITH HIS HELP, **SUPERMAN, BATMAN,** AND I WILL RE-ENTER THE **DARK**, AND GET THE ENERGY NEEDED TO RESTART THE MULTIVERSE.

RESTART THE MULTIVERSE?

I KNOW. AND I KNOW **ALL THIS** IS THE RESULT OF OUR CHOICES AND THE CHOICES OF THOSE WE FAILED.

BUT HEAR ME WHEN I SAY REGARDLESS OF BLAME OR CAUSE, WHAT THIS UNIVERSE HAS BECOME...

...NO ONE WANTS THIS. **NO ONE.**

AND I WILL NOT LET IT STAND. TODAY, WE CAN REJECT OUR FATE. WE CAN REJECT **DEATH** ITSELF AND GIVE THIS UNIVERSE A SECOND CHANCE. BUT ONLY IF WE WORK TOGETHER.

ARE YOU IN?





YOU HAVE IT?
THE FINAL
BOX?!

YOU GOTTA
ASK?



GOOD. NOW
THAT ALL FIVE
ARE COLLECTED,
WE CAN MAKE
OUR MOVE.

TELL ME,
CHIEF...



...WHAT
THE HELL
IS IN HERE
ANYWAY?



UH-UH,
MY CZARNIAN
FRIEND, OPEN
IT TOO SOON,
AND YOU WILL
REGRET IT.

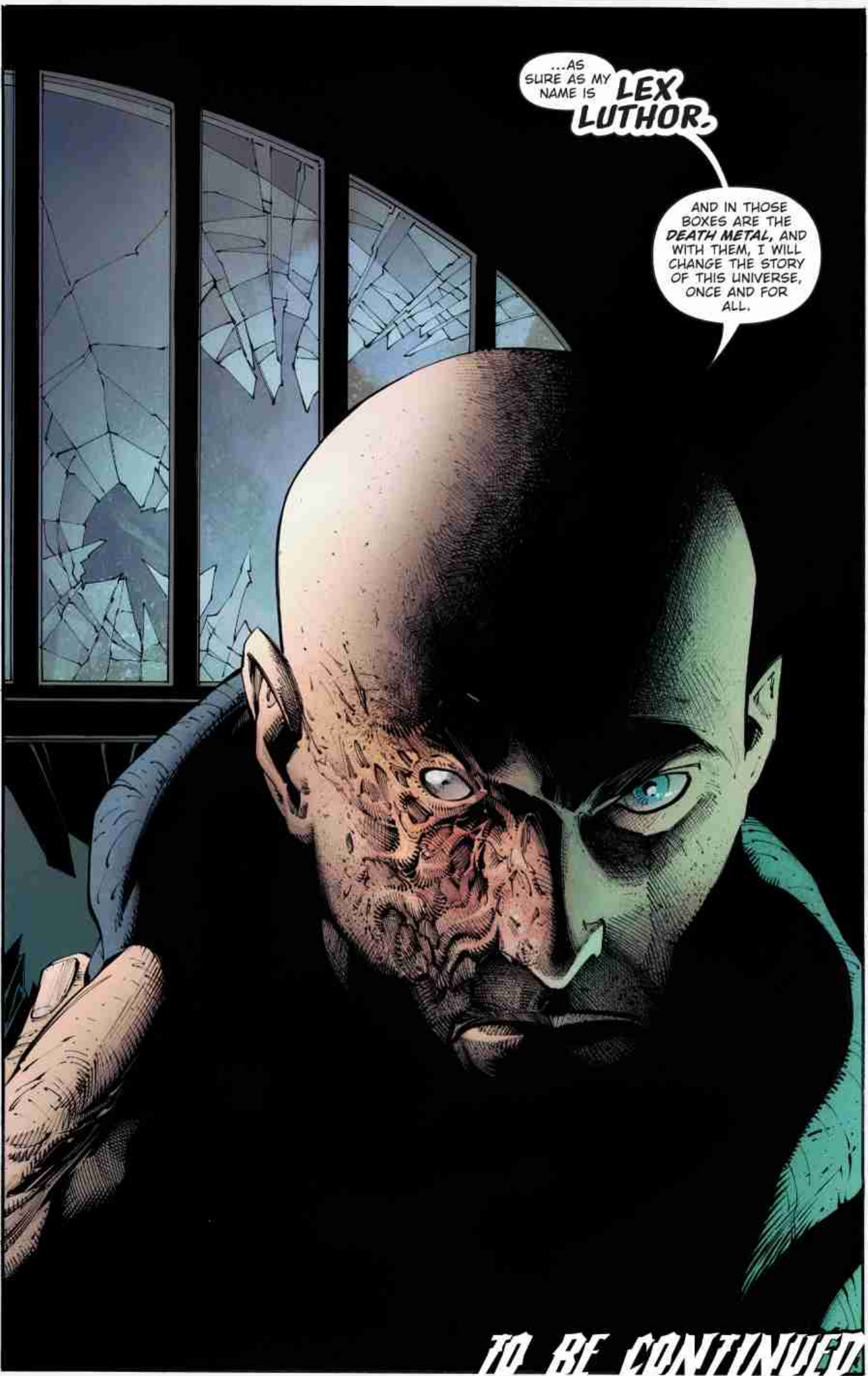


"YOU
WILL REGRET
IT..." BLAH
BLAH. ON MY
WAY.

I JUST
HOPE THESE
LITTLE THINGS
ARE WORTH
IT.



THEY'RE
MORE THAN
WORTH IT. I'M
SURE OF
IT...

A close-up, high-contrast comic book illustration of Lex Luthor. He has a bald head and a face that is partially covered in a jagged, cracked, and bloody mask-like texture. His eyes are a bright, intense blue. He is looking directly at the viewer with a menacing expression. In the background, there are three vertical rectangular windows with shattered, cracked glass. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights and deep shadows.

...AS
SURE AS MY
NAME IS

**LEX
LUTHOR.**

AND IN THOSE
BOXES ARE THE
DEATH METAL, AND
WITH THEM, I WILL
CHANGE THE STORY
OF THIS UNIVERSE,
ONCE AND FOR
ALL.

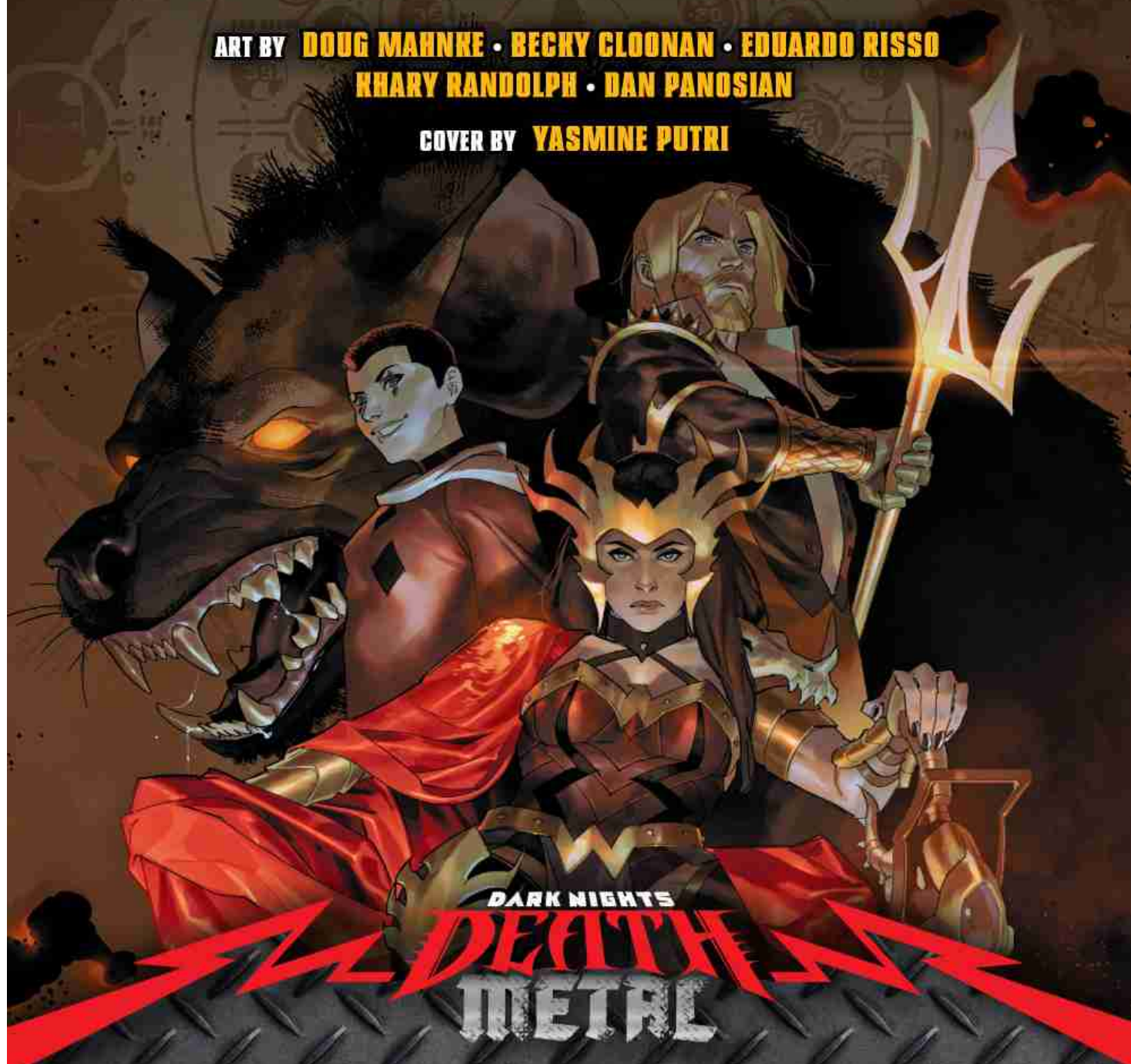
TO BE CONTINUED

EXPLORE THE EVIL NEW WORLD ORDER!

STORIES BY **SCOTT SNYDER • JAMES TYNION IV • JOSHUA WILLIAMSON**
BECKY CLOONAN • VITA AYALA • CHIP ZDARSKY
CHRISTOPHER PRIEST

ART BY **DOUG MAHNKE • BECKY CLOONAN • EDUARDO RISSO**
KHARY RANDOLPH • DAN PANOSIAN

COVER BY **YASMINE PUTRI**



DARK NIGHTS **DEATH** **METAL**

GUIDEBOOK

NEW ONE-SHOT • AUGUST

TM & © DC





DARK NIGHTS: DEATH METAL CHECKLIST

The already-massive scale of *Dark Nights: Death Metal* continues to build this month with two star-studded one-shots: *Dark Nights: Death Metal Legends of the Dark Knights* #1 and *Dark Nights: Death Metal Guidebook* #1.

The tempo picks up even further this fall with more specials and the Justice League getting in on the action. Here's how all the metal mayhem fits together.

JUNE

🖤 *Dark Nights: Death Metal* #1

JULY

🖤 *Dark Nights: Death Metal* #2

AUGUST

🖤 *Dark Nights: Death Metal Legends of the Dark Knights* #1

Learn how each of the Dark Knights of the Metalverse became what they are... including the origin of the Robin King, the Batmobeast, and...Batmanosaurus Rex?!

🖤 *Dark Nights: Death Metal* #3

🖤 *Dark Nights: Death Metal Guidebook* #1

Earth is shrouded in darkness; this is the guidebook to the new world order and its evil leaders...a diary, written by a shrouded figure.

SEPTEMBER

🖤 *Dark Nights: Death Metal Trinity Crisis* #1

Two words: reunion tour. Superman is free, and he launches an attack with Batman and Wonder Woman.

🖤 *Justice League* #53, "Doom Metal Part 1"

Their most desperate mission: free the Legion of Doom!

🖤 *Dark Nights: Death Metal Speed Metal* #1

Wally West's Dr. Manhattan powers make him a target—but he's got the fastest backup alive.

🖤 *Dark Nights: Death Metal Multiverse's End* #1

Heroes from multiple worlds make their last stand, including President Superman...and Captain Carrot?

OCTOBER

🖤 *Dark Nights: Death Metal* #4

🖤 *Justice League* #54, "Doom Metal Part 2"

🖤 *Justice League* #55, "Doom Metal Part 3"

🖤 *Dark Nights: Death Metal Robin King* #1

🖤 *Dark Nights: Death Metal Rise of the New God* #1



Dark Nights: Death Metal Legends of the Dark Knights #1
cover by Kyle Hotz and Alejandro Sanchez

NOVEMBER

🖤 *Justice League* #56, "Doom Metal Part 4"

🖤 *Dark Nights: Death Metal Infinite Hour Exxxtreme!*

🖤 *Dark Nights: Death Metal* #5

🖤 *Justice League* #57, "Doom Metal Part 5"

🖤 *Dark Nights: Death Metal The Multiverse Who Laughs* #1

DECEMBER

🖤 *Dark Nights: Death Metal The Secret Origin* #1

🖤 *Dark Nights: Death Metal The Last Stories of the DCU* #1

🖤 *Dark Nights: Death Metal* #6

🖤 *Dark Nights: Death Metal The Last 52: War of the Multiverses* #1

JANUARY

🖤 *Dark Nights: Death Metal* #7

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